

SOUTH FLORIDA

SunSentinel

WEATHER

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Low: 68

Forecast, 12B

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LOCAL

Lofty achievement

Kite-surfer finishes attempt at world-record trip from South Florida to Bimini. **4B**

Doctor Detour

Wayne Roustan smooths your ride on South Florida's bumpy roads. **1B**

Go!

Broken rock

'School of Rock' musical fails to get a top grade in its S. Florida production. **12B**

SPORTS

QB homecoming

Lane Kiffin's Owls to face off vs. ex-Flanagan High star. **1C**

Bills make Dolphins pay

24-16 loss means playoff hopes are all but dashed. **1C**



South Florida mavens keep Yiddish alive

Fans turn to plays, clubs and classes to spread 'vibrant and vital language'

BY LOIS K. SOLOMON

Staff writer

It's not taught in South Florida schools, public or private, and many of its most ardent enthusiasts have died.

But Yiddish, the beloved language of many Eastern European Jews and their descendants, refuses to succumb to these staggering obstacles. Supporters are using clubs, plays, music, lectures and classes to keep it *lebedik* — the Yiddish word for alive.

"It will never die," said Miriam Hoffman, a Coral Springs resident and retired Yiddish professor at Columbia University. "Yiddish is a vibrant and vital language."

But the number of speakers is declining.

Yiddish, a melange of European and Near-Eastern languages, was spoken by 10 million people before World War II. Many of its speakers were killed in the Holocaust.

Today, an estimated 500,000 to 1 million people speak it, mainly in the United States, Canada,

See YIDDISH, 14A



PHOTOS BY CARLINE JEAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Delray Beach resident Frieda Justen, 89, who was born in Poland, speaks Yiddish in the conversation club at the Weisman Community Center in Delray Beach. They meet 10 a.m.-noon Fridays.

"A young person who wants to learn it has a lot of resources today."

Susan Ganc, teacher

Nelson, Scott gear up to spar

Big-spending race for Senate heats up even before it officially starts

BY STEVEN LEMONGELLO

Staff writer

The battle between U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson and his Republican challenger Gov. Rick Scott isn't official yet — Scott hasn't formally filed to run. But it has already spawned opposition ads, websites and millions of dollars in spending by allied groups, all trying to get a head start on a campaign that could determine which party controls the Senate.

The looming campaign comes as Democrat Doug Jones' victory over Republican Roy Moore in Alabama, even taking into account the impact of allegations against Moore of sexual

See SENATE, 14A

Feds approve express train line to Orlando

Getting from South Florida to Orlando could be faster now that the federal government has approved the next phase of Brightline's high-speed passenger rail service that could begin construction early next year.

BY WAYNE K. ROUSTAN

Staff writer

The leg between Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach was expected to open this year. With only a couple weeks left, ticket prices and a start date are coming "soon," company officials said.

The Federal Railroad Administration issued a decision Friday that essentially got the Miami-to-Orlando route back on track after Brightline's parent-company, All Aboard Florida, modified its plans.

"This is the most critical and final step in the extension of Brightline's

See TRAIN, 14A

TRUMP TO CHOOSE 5 U.S. JUDGES IN S. FLORIDA

BY PAULA MCMAHON

Staff writer

In the next few months, President Donald Trump is expected to name five new federal judges to lifetime appointments in South Florida — an unusual chance to shape the bench for decades to come.

Despite the opportunity, there are no controversial picks on the recently announced short list of 10 candidates for the vacancies in the Southern District of Florida, local attorneys say.

The finalists include one woman and nine men. Seven already serve as state judges on the bench in Broward and Miami-

Dade counties, one is the acting U.S. attorney in charge of all federal prosecutions in South Florida, and two are former federal prosecutors now in private practice.

They are: Broward Circuit Judges David Haimes and Raag Singhal; Miami-Dade Circuit Judges Antonio Arzola, Peter

Lopez, Rodolfo 'Rudy' Ruiz, Rodney Smith and John Thornton; Acting U.S. Attorney Benjamin Greenberg; and attorneys Roy Altman and Melissa Visconti.

Experts say federal district judges — who handle criminal

See JUDGES, 14A

YOUR NATION, YOUR WORLD

Report: S. Florida soldier fought to the end

Army Sgt. La David Johnson died in a hail of gunfire, fighting to the death after fleeing militants who had just killed three comrades in an ambush in Niger. **4A**

White House: No talk of firing Mueller

The Trump administration says it is fully cooperating with Russia probe. Treasury Secretary Stephen Mnuchin says he has no reason to think Mueller's job is in peril. **3A**

Florida flights delayed by Atlanta outage

The power glitch at world's busiest airport grounded more than 1,000 flights, triggering a domino effect of cancellations and delays for inbound and out-bound flights at all three major airports in South Florida as the holiday travel rush was starting. **Story, 1B**

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